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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

Tuesday, July 18, 1939.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "HELP FOR THE FAMILY WARDROBE." Information from the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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July may seem early to begin talking about fall clothes. But in another month it will be almost time for the children to go back to school. In another month you'll be right in the thick of outfitting the family for fall. And then you'll need to have on hand all the bulletins and other information that will help you with this big job. So if you believe in being prepared, now is the time to write for information.

Did you know that the Bureau of Home Economics of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C., lends a helping hand in many ways to the home dressmaker? Here are a few of the ways this Bureau can give you help.

If you have young children in the family, you are welcome to the Bureau's free bulletin on children's clothing. This bulletin is written by Clarice Scott and Margaret Smith, clothing specialists, who have spent years studying children's clothing needs. They have planned, designed patterns, and made garments for babies; rompers for the creeping age; and little dresses and suits for preschool children. That includes sunsuits and winter play suits. You'll find pictures of many of these garments in the bulletin on children's clothing. They will give you ideas for making clothes for your children that are comfortable, healthful, durable, and easy to launder.

If you want a copy of this bulletin, just write to the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and ask for Farmers' Bulletin No. 1778 called "Fabrics and Designs for Children's Clothes."

Some mothers say that young children are the most difficult to dress correctly. Other mothers say that they have the most trouble in making the right kind of clothes for daughters in their teens. So in the last few years the teen-age has had the attention of the clothing specialists. And the Bureau now has a traveling exhibit going to 4-H Clubs all over the country. This exhibit includes school dresses, play suits, home dresses, afternoon and party dresses all suitable for this age. If your daughter is a 4-H Club member and interested in making her own clothes, she will probably see this exhibit when her State leader or clothing leader brings it to one of the meetings. If possible her mother should see it, too, for you can get from it so many good ideas for finishes and decorations, fabrics and styles that will help in home sewing. Along with the exhibit you will see photographs of girls actually wearing these clothes. The pictures will give you an idea of how the dresses should fit and what hats, shoes, pocketbooks or other accessories should be worn with them.

Now perhaps this fall you'll be buying or making a coat or a dress for yourself or your grown-up daughter. If so, you'll find a good deal of helpful information in 2 free leaflets from the Bureau. (The time to order these is any day now.) The leaflet on coats is No. 117 called "Quality Guides in Buying Women's Cloth Coats." The leaflet on dresses is No. 105 called "Quality Guides in Buying Ready-Made Dresses." A postcard to the Department of Agriculture will send one or both of these leaflets to you free. The Bureau also has a picture-book to help in buying and, incidentally in making coats. This picture-book is not free. It costs 10 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. But it's well worth the dime in helping you save money on a coat.

Clothing specialists at the Bureau of Home Economics design clothing for children but do not sell patterns. They offer these designs to commercial pattern companies to make and sell. A number of companies now sell these patterns. If you

want to know where to buy them, write to the Bureau for pictures of the garments and the companies now selling the patterns.

Of course, reading about clothes and looking at pictures of them is a help. But to see the clothes themselves, all made up, is even more helpful to the home dressmaker. So the clothing specialists have made up exhibits of their children's garments which they lend to women's clubs, home demonstration groups, schools, colleges, or to any other group interested in the proper clothing for children. If your club would like to see these clothes, write to the Bureau of Home Economics and tell them the date when you want the exhibit. It will be sent to you from Washington, D. C. Your club pays the express both ways. You may be interested to know that this exhibit has been on display in clubs in every State in the Union and even Alaska. Recently a pattern company in Australia took models of these clothes so that children in that far-away country could have these comfortable healthful garments.

Along with the exhibit your club can borrow folios showing proper workmanship, seams, finishes, and other details for mothers with the problem of planning and making clothes for their families.

Clothing specialists also have spent a great deal of study on new and better ways to make use of fabrics of cotton and wool -- the textile fibers of great importance to American ~~Agriculture~~. This summer they have been making up many garments of the new cotton fabrics, now so much in style.

The Bureau also has information to send you or your club on underslips, women's stockings, dyeing fabrics, taking out spots and stains, and -- but there. I can't hope to tell you about all the information these clothing specialists have. This is just a brief glimpse to give you an idea of the help homemakers like yourself can receive from this one Bureau of the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D. C.

